

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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SUBJECT Chinese Communist Construction Projects, Sikang and Tibet

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SOURCE:

1. In May and June 1952 there were about 20,000 Chinese troops working in the area of Tamashan Pass (Dagma La, N 31-11, E 97-19), completing the section of the Tatsienlu (K'angting, N 30-03, E 102-02) - Ch'angtu (Chamdo, N 31-10, E 97-07) highway<sup>1</sup> over Tamashan Pass and Sigma La, which lies about half-way between Tamashan Pass and Ch'angtu. Mechanical equipment of Russian origin, including large rock crushers, earth-moving equipment and pneumatic drills, was being used in the construction of the road in this area.
2. In May heavy ten-wheeled trucks were able to reach the eastern foot of Tamashan Pass on the Tatsienlu-K'angting road. From Kantsu (N 31-36, E 99-59) to Tamashan Pass the road was broad enough for two large trucks to pass. On this section of the road many steel bridges had been built, permitting travel at all seasons of the year. No bridge, however, had been built across the Yangtze River in the vicinity of Teko (N 31-49, E 98-37), but a ferry system was in operation. This involved the use of eight or nine large ferry boats, capable of carrying large trucks, which were attached to steel cables which crossed the river at the ferry point. The surface of the road between Kantsu and Tamashan Pass was rock and sand.
3. In June there was no evidence of road building between Ch'angtu and a point about thirty miles east of Lhasa. From here to Lhasa, however, about 2,000 Tibetans with a few Chinese soldiers were engaged in broadening the existing trail, using only hand equipment. Progress on this road appeared to be very slow.
4. In September 1952 Chinese Communist troops were engaged in building brick houses along the main trade route from Lhasa to Yatung (N 27-26, E 88-53). These houses, designed to accommodate the Chinese troops stationed in this area, were scattered almost continuously along the stretch of the trade route from twenty miles north of Yatung into Yatung itself.<sup>2</sup>

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Comments

- 25X1A 1. The formal opening of the Tatsienlu-K'angting highway was celebrated on 20 November 1952. [redacted] reported that this highway was in use in August 1952. [redacted]

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- 25X1A 2. An increase in the number of Chinese Communist troops in the Chumbi Valley (Yatung area) was reported in the Indian press in late December 1952. [redacted]

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